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AP US History

Chapter 4 Questions

1) What was the philosophy of revolt that emerged in the colonies? How much of the colonial uproar was economic and how much was political?

The ideas of revolt came from many sources. One source was that some were drawn from religious sources or from the political experiences of the colonies of the colonies. Another was that it came from abroad. The most important were the “radical” ideas of those in Great Britain who stood in opposition to their government; some were Scots, who considered the English state tyrannical; others were embittered “country Whigs” who felt excluded from power and considered the existing system corrupt and oppressive; and they used some sayings from philosophical minds, mainly John Locke as an argument against their government. Percentage was mixed between economic and political but I suppose the higher was the economic.

2) Identify, explain and analyze the three most important events that led to strong colonial desires for revolution.

One of the major events was the Townshend Program. It was a series of acts and laws that forced the colonies to do certain things or pay taxes for everyday things. The colonists didn’t like these laws at all or at least told them to do those things, one of the first starting points against the British. Another event was the Boston Massacre. It was about British soldiers firing into a crowd of colonists (Bostonians) after they tried to provoke them. It really infuriated the colonists so they made the news heard around them, also started a spirit of dissent thanks to Samuel Adams. One more event was the Boston Tea Party; mainly the effects. The colonists refused to buy tea from the British after the Tea Act (perhaps before too), and since theirs were the only one to drink they dumped their tea into salt water which destroyed the tea made the British angry, and passed laws that were intolerable which a main effect stopped Massachusetts from all types of trade; isolated from everything outside their border. Again this type of thing made the colonists angry, it sparked new resistance up and down the coasts (of America, eastern) and they stopped buying any types of British goods.

3) From 1607 through 1774, to what extent was British rule of its American colonies mismanaged, corrupt, and counterproductive to the purposes of colonization?

During the beginning, the British rule had great effect and the denizens in America always obeyed. Those first laws or really none at all, no enforcement, they weren’t mismanaged, corrupt, or counterproductive to the purposes of colonization at all. But around the 1760s, they started to get out of control, and the colonists started to do the same. They had started to tax the colonists mainly for money after they made them fight for them for nearly nine years, they were probably somewhat poor and they taxed them for their own problems (British and France’s Seven’s Years War. Then the colonists started to defy and resist those laws, and the British started to take away some of their basic rights which were really corrupt and bad. They even placed soldiers in the colonies which eventually led to the Boston Massacre and they even made the Coercive Acts that were like punishment for some misdoings the colonists had done, only some did, not all and they had to pay for that. By that time the British rule had become really mismanaged, corrupt, and counterproductive to the purpose of colonization and the colonists weren’t willing to obey the British anymore.